

NEWS from

DENNIS HANSBERGER

San Bernardino County Supervisor, Third District



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**Contact: Danielle Borish
(909) 387-4855
dborish@sbcounty.gov**

RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF THE SAWTOOTH FIRE

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has approved a one-time credit for county water customers that received unusually high water bills from June to September 2006 due to the Sawtooth Complex Fire. Water customers of county districts CSA W-4 in Pioneertown and CSA W-3 Hacienda Heights in Morongo Valley will benefit from this action.

The July 2006 Sawtooth Complex Fire was a result of multiple lightning strikes near Pioneertown, eventually burning over 70,000 acres and destroying 50 homes, 8 mobile homes, 191 cars and trucks, and numerous other structures.

After receiving inquiries by water district customers in Pioneertown and Morongo Valley, County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger analyzed consumption and billing data from County Special Districts records and determined that there were in fact excess water usage charges attributable to the incident. "We want to alleviate any additional financial burden that we can," said County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger. "Crediting these customers' account is one more thing we can do to assist the victims of the Sawtooth Fire."

Hansberger found that during the fire, suppression resources were deployed in Pioneertown and Morongo Valley where residential hose connections were sometimes utilized by firefighters due to insufficient water resources. This resulted in higher than normal water usage for some customers. Also, clean up of the aftermath of the blaze accounted for some unusually high water bills in Pioneertown.

Pioneertown customers who received unusually high bills can expect to be credited in January, while some customers in Morongo Valley's Hacienda Heights will be credited in February. This credit will not automatically go to every account. Accounts that clearly show a dramatic spike in water usage of more than \$180 will automatically receive the credit.

Those customers in CSA 70 Improvements Zones W-3 and W-4 that do not receive an automatic credit can submit written requests for credit consideration or request payment

arrangements to Special Districts Department Water and Sanitation Division Attention to Laurie Hull, P.O. Box 5004, Victorville, CA 92393-5004. For additional information, please contact the Water and Sanitation Division at 760-955-9885.